

## CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for forming a polymeric coating on a substrate surface, which method comprises the steps of:
  - i. activating (A) ~~at least one~~ a monomer selected from (a) at least one polymerisable/polymerizable organic acid monomer comprising at least one acid group and at least one polymerizable group and (b) at least one or polymerizable organic acid anhydride monomer comprising at least one or more acid and/or acid anhydride groups/group and at least one polymerisable/polymerizable group, and/or (B) at least one polymerisable/polymerizable organic base monomer comprising at least one or more basic groups/group and at least one polymerisable/polymerizable group, by subjecting said the monomers to a soft ~~ionisation~~ ionization plasma process; and
  - ii. depositing the activated monomers resulting from step (i) onto the substrate surface thereby forming a polymeric coating ~~on said substrate surface whilst retaining the~~ containing salts resulting from interaction between acidic and/or basic functionality groups on side chains of the monomers polymeric coating.
2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the soft ~~ionisation~~ ionization plasma process is a low pressure pulsed plasma.
3. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method in accordance with claim 2 wherein the pulse on-time is from 10 to ~~1000~~ 1000  $\mu$ s, and pulse off-time is from 1000 to ~~10000~~ 10000  $\mu$ s.

4. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the soft ~~ionisation~~ionization plasma process is an atmospheric pressure glow discharge.
5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method in accordance with ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the ~~polymerisable~~polymerizable organic acid monomer is a ~~polymerisable~~polymerizable carboxylic acid.
6. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method in accordance with claim 5 wherein the ~~polymerisable~~polymerizable carboxylic acid is selected from at least one or more of acrylic acid, alkylacrylic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, citraconic acid, cinnamic acid, itaconic acid, sorbic acid and mesaconic acid.
7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method in accordance with ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the organic base monomer is a ~~polymerisable~~polymerizable primary or secondary amine.
8. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method in accordance with claim 7 wherein the organic base monomer is selected from ~~one or more~~ at least one of 2-aminoethylene, 3-aminopropylene, 4-aminobutylene, and 5-aminopentylene.
9. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method in accordance with ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the step of activating further comprises activating a spacer molecule ~~is additionally activated and deposited on the substrate.~~
10. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method in accordance with claim 9 wherein the spacer molecule is an alkene or diene.
11. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method in accordance with ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the substrate surface is activitated, or cleaned and ~~for~~

activated ~~by means of using~~ a plasma treatment ~~prior to deposition of the coating~~ before depositing the activated monomers.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method in accordance with claim 2 ~~or 3~~ wherein at least one of the polymerisablepolymerizable organic base monomer and/or the polymerisablepolymerizable organic acidie monomer is/~~are~~ introduced into the pulsed plasma in the form of a ~~vapour~~vapor.
13. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method in accordance with claim 4 wherein at least one of the polymerisablepolymerizable organic base monomer and/or the polymerisablepolymerizable organic acidie monomer is/~~are~~ introduced into the atmospheric pressure glow discharge in the form of an atomisedatomized liquidsliquid.
14. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method in accordance with claim 13 wherein the atomisedatomized liquidsliquid ~~are~~is ~~atomised by means of~~ produced using an ultrasonic nozzle.
15. (Currently amended) A substrate having a deposited coating ~~obtainable in accordance with~~ prepared according to the method in any one of claimsclaim 1 to 14.
16. (Cancelled)